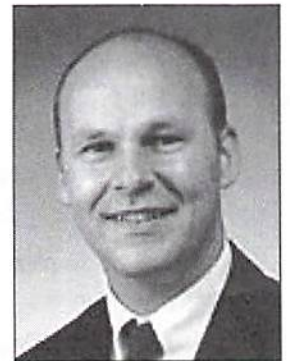


imprints

The Newsletter of Literacy BC

Message from the new Minister

Graeme Bowbrick was appointed Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and Minister Responsible for Youth on February 29, 2000. Mr. Bowbrick served as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier from May 1998 to July 1999. He was also Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education, Skills and Training from February to May 1998.



April 2000

I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to serve as Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and Minister Responsible for Youth. I am excited about my new portfolio and look forward to sharing information and ideas with Literacy BC and other educational and training organizations. As a

Minister, a community member and a parent, I firmly believe that basic education is key to pursuing training and job opportunities, and in helping people lead more successful and productive lives.

Here in British Columbia, we are fortunate to have the kind of education and training system that supports people of all ages, and all walks of life, in reaching for and achieving their dreams. With education clearly front and centre in its priorities, government continues to implement measures to make post-secondary learning affordable, achievable and accessible to all. From tuition-free adult basic education, to programs helping youth earn post-secondary tuition credits, to a five-year tuition freeze and the most comprehensive student financial assistance package in Canada — British Columbia is rapidly becoming known as “the education province.”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate you — the staff and volunteers at Literacy BC — for your dedication and ongoing commitment to improving the lives of British Columbians and their families. I look forward to a continued, positive relationship with your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Graeme Bowbrick".

Honourable Graeme Bowbrick

Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology

IN THIS ISSUE:

Inside:

- ...Spotlight on Youth
- ...News from B.C.
- ...National News
- ...Conference Update

Spotlight on...Youth and Literacy

Peer to Peer Project a Success in Surrey

Out in Surrey, a different kind of learning is taking place in the basement of the South Westminster Learning Centre. A group of young adults meets daily to read, write, tutor and help each other in a one-of-a kind "family" literacy program. They are participants in the Surrey School District's **Youth to Youth Peer Literacy** project, now in its second year of federal funding under the Literacy Corps program. The program is administered through the Adult Literacy Cost Shared Program

Youth to Youth Peer Literacy draws students mainly from the Whalley and Bridgeview sections of Surrey. Students are also referred from the learning centres in Cloverdale, North Surrey and Guildford. The South Westminster Learning Centre is one of five learning centres, in the Surrey S.D., which each year enroll more than 1100 at risk youth between 15 and 19.

Jean Rasmussen and Nancy Richardson visited the Learning Centre recently to get a first hand look at the program. Lee Weinstein, Principal of South Westminster, gathered a group of students from the program for an informal conversation in

a comfortable and friendly space filled with work tables, books, a computer and a portable CD player. Wanda Allan, a Youth Worker with the Surrey School District, who teaches at the Centre two days a week, and Maybelline Anaskan, the aboriginal student liaison, joined us.

Youth to Youth Peer Literacy is a unique program that helps students, who are having difficulty in the mainstream school system, develop self confidence and achieve academic success. They are encouraged to read books that interest them, study and work at their own pace, and get help from each other.

Wanda explains that the program benefits "kids who are experiencing chaos in their home life — added to the usual adolescent and academic

chaos. Sometimes the last grade level they understood was grade 4 or 5, then they get into grade 8 and feel overwhelmed. Then they feel stupid. Here, they take baby steps — they can move forward and advance at their own pace up through the grade levels. They have established a relationship of trust, caring and confidence."

"The difference is, it's not just about academics here. Each person is totally unique — totally an individual. A student is a person first. No one here (among the staff) can ignore a kid's problems when they go home. It's like being part of a family. Like a family, it's reciprocal."

"When you realize that kids can show you something — that they can teach you — it's a wonderful thing. This may



Left: Kyle Langford with Youth to Youth Peer Literacy students. Right: Lee Weinstein; second from right: Wanda Allan.

Spotlight on...Youth and Literacy

Peer to Peer Project a Success (cont'd)

never have happened in their life before. It becomes a trade-off. Here it's, you teach me something and I'll teach you something —it's a win-win situation."

The program runs four days a week, morning and afternoon,

and includes extracurricular activities such as hockey, basketball and field trips. Currently, under the supervision of an instructor from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design, the students are working on a

"literacy-based photography project". They are creating a school yearbook by taking pictures of each other, and writing the accompanying text. 30 to 40 kids come through the program on a daily basis in

Continued on page four...

Here's what some of the students say about their experience in Youth to Youth Peer Literacy:

Jordan, only two weeks in the program — *"I like it because it's different. We're not really rushed here. It's easier to ask for help than in regular school."*

Terry, who used to attend a mainstream school — *"I was behind four or five grade levels in English. So I stopped going to school and then I was kicked out. Here, I'm getting lots of support from Kyle and Lee — it's a different environment."*

Mark — *"I got better at reading and writing and I'm a bit faster since I've been practicing writing. Kyle gives me a piece of writing to do every day." Kyle adds, "It's made a huge difference to him."*

Matt — *"My friends all want to get an education. But they're not motivated*

to do it. I tell them there is a place where they can go. An easy place to go —not strict — where you can go at your own pace, a place where you can work. That's who I think the school is for — for those people."

Jamie, asked what he likes about the program, says simply, "It's quiet here."

South Westminster has also received enthusiastic support from parents.

One parent writes: *...I have not seen my son this excited about learning in a long time. I am also an educator, in the public school system. I have watched my son, and many others like him slip further and further away from competency in literacy because they do not fit the*

models we currently have in place for them. These young people are bright and sensitive. They do not want to be seen as different, incompetent, or abnormal...it is critical that our youth are given every opportunity to grow and learn in an environment that fosters safety first; an environment where they can take risks without fear of feeling inferior or foolish.

Another writes: *... the program at South Westminster Learning Center has been very helpful for my son...when he was in school back in Alberta he was receiving an F mark. Since he started at South Westminster he has been receiving B's and he has started to enjoy going to school.*

Spotlight on...Youth and Literacy

Supporting Youth Community Action

Literacy BC is playing a hands-on role in a province-wide program that provides work experience and tuition credits for young people in B.C.

Since late 1998, we have been one of the sponsors in the Literacy Sector of the Youth Community Action (YCA)

Program. The program provides youth age 15 to 24 with work experience opportunities in the non-profit sector for which they receive tuition credits for post-secondary studies. To date Literacy BC has hosted half a dozen students — and one of

them, May Chan, is now our part time librarian.

The community host agency for the YCA Literacy Sector is Capilano College. (The Literacy Sector also includes the New Caledonia and

Continued next page...

Peer to Peer Project (cont'd)

any given week — more on Tuesdays because the photography project is very popular.

Lee, the students we interviewed and parents feel that the success of this program is largely due to the commitment, vision and dedication of literacy worker Kyle Langford.

Kyle says, "I was illiterate myself all through high school," although he graduated from Grade 12. Kyle met Lee a year and a half ago when he enrolled in the Literacy Corps program, and now runs the Youth to Youth Peer Literacy project, under Lee's supervision.

Kyle, 28, was running his own construction and insulation business when he was hired as the aboriginal support worker at the Centre. For awhile, he

held down both jobs. Then he had to decide which one to keep. To help him choose, he asked his students to write him a story — to tell him what he should do. He took their writing home to read — "and they made my decision for me. I was very moved — that the kids wanted me here. So I shut down my business and stayed with the kids."

Lee says Kyle's action "was extraordinary — that he talked to the kids first. It was the right thing to do." He explains that, "Kyle has reached out to every part of the school — even though he's the literacy guy. The rest of the school has bought into our program — we're the heart of the school. It's very unusual."

"I get 100 per cent support here," says Kyle, "I have the freedom to push boundaries."

Kyle gives each student a journal to write in, "What they write in it is up to them. It's therapeutic for them — the writing stays between me and them. It's the story of their life — it goes nowhere else. It's up to each student if they want to share it."

Kyle says the writing also leads to discussions among the group. "These are not planned — things just come up. Issues like family life, personal issues, anything and everything. Sometimes they talk about touchy situations. Things they can't talk about in regular school. "Wanda describes these informal discussion times as, "like a philosopher's corner."

Kyle sums up his feelings about the students in Youth the Youth Peer Literacy like this: "They never failed school — school failed them."

Spotlight on...Youth and Literacy

Youth Community Action (cont'd)

Vancouver Island regions). Jean Rasmussen, Literacy BC Projects Manager, oversees our participation in YCA. Jean invited Vicky Van Weert, who helps administer the YCA program at Capilano College, to conduct a site visit at Literacy BC to talk to some of the students who have shared our space for the past few months.

This is the second year of the YCA program, one of 12 programs under Youth Options B.C. through the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. At present, YCA students put in a minimum of 100 hours, which earns them \$800 in credits, to a maximum of 300 hours (\$2400). Vicky says about 350 students have applied for places in the program in the last two years. More than 200 students have completed contracts, averaging 150 hours each.

"We are working on more publicity to promote year three," she says. "There have even been some success stories — of youth becoming employed in places where they were volunteering."

Literacy BC has hosted YCA students from UBC, Capilano College, and a North Vancouver high school.

Meet the YCA students at Literacy BC...

Lan Sam

Lan Sam, 22, a first-year Capilano College student, joined YCA last December. Her first tasks here were to prepare and collate information kits and other materials for Family Literacy Week in January. On Family Literacy Day, January 27, Lan helped to greet guests and assisted with registration for the "Breakfast of Champions" at the Vancouver Public Library. Lan, who was new to office equipment and procedures, recalls, "There was a lot going on then — a lot of office support — faxing, photocopying and assembling kits. I enjoyed it a lot — and I learned a lot."

Lan says working for Literacy BC has given her the opportunity to learn more about children and early literacy. During Family Literacy Week, she assisted with registration and also attended our Literacy and Early Brain Development Workshop, presented by Dr. Clyde Hertzman, which she found interesting. Lan has also gained research skills under the tutelage of another YCA student, Maggie, who showed her how to access multiple databases and academic journals using the Internet. "I definitely want to develop more skills in this area," she says. Lan says her increased awareness of family literacy will be an advantage to her in her work as a volunteer with children at Kiwassa Neighbourhood House.



Jean Rasmussen, left, and Vicky Van Weert, right, with YCA students: (l. to r.): Anita Chan, Lan Sam, Maggie Van Luven.

Spotlight on...Youth and Literacy

Youth Community Action (cont'd)

Anita Chan

Anita Chan, 18, is a first year arts student at UBC. She joined YCA after hearing about it from her sister, May, who will graduate this year from the School of Library Archival, and Information Studies at UBC and is now our Resource Centre librarian.

Anita is our Resource Centre and Projects assistant. Like the other YCA students, her work experience has included a bit of everything. She has helped with Family Literacy Week, assisted with registration at the Family Literacy Day Breakfast, assembled information kits, mailed resources, entered data and done Internet research, and learned about library cataloging. Jean describes Anita as "very willing, cheerful and efficient." Anita says the YCA program "really opens doors — to things you haven't thought about before." Anita's goal "is to get into children's literature — as an illustrator, perhaps."

Maggie Van Luven

Maggie Van Luven has been with us since February this year. Maggie has worked closely with our Office Administrator, Marj Froemgen, in the ongoing (and seemingly never-ending) work of updating our database. Maggie, 24, is a second year student in the Arts Faculty at UBC. This is the first opportunity she has had in her post-secondary studies to access this kind of support.

Maggie has spent hours in front of the computer "correlating data, chasing and maintaining information ... and making sure it's all correct." She says her experience at Literacy BC "has taught me patience — and good posture." Her input has also been helpful with the design of the database. The transfer of data from one program to another has been "a huge undertaking," says Jean, "and Maggie has been a real boon to us. Maggie is efficient, accurate, thorough, friendly and a good problem-solver."

Maggie says the value of Youth Community Action for her is that, "It provides an opening for me to look at all the avenues that are available to me to do what I might like — and an opportunity to figure out if I like doing a certain thing. Adaptability — that's one thing I've learned in this program." For now, her future direction is open — "maybe literacy, or education in some way, or library resource work."

Executive Director Linda Mitchell says Literacy BC is very pleased to have been part of the program. "We're about encouraging learning and training," says Linda, "so it is important that we be involved in this program. For the student, the value is in gaining hands-on experience. It's beyond volunteering. This is a job." Jean agrees. "It takes a lot to make a program like this work," she says, "but it's been very rewarding."

Students and potential host agencies can visit the YCA website through the MAETT at www.youth.gov.bc.ca



News from Prince George

Learners in Prince George have had their writing featured on the National Adult Literacy Data-base (NALD) Story of the Week.

Pat Hanki, Regional Literacy Coordinator in New Caledonia, sends us this report:

On Valentine's Day a group of eight learners had their stories and poems launched onto NALD's Story of the Week.

The learners attend various programs in Prince George: Native Friendship Centre's Refocus program, College and Career Prep (at the College), and VALT (Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutoring).

Back in November, Charles Ramsey, Executive Director of NALD visited Prince George and recorded the stories. The NALD technicians prepared the stories for the launching — the technology was as easy as pushing a button. (Although there was a fair amount of stress involved in the preceding moments to the launch, with the room full of people eagerly waiting for the stories to appear and my doubts about it all working.) Everything worked out well though, with RealAudio allowing us to hear the learners read their own stories.

The audience included fellow students (a whole ESL class), parents, family members, teachers, tutors, and College administration. It was a very emotional event due to the nature of some of the writings and reactions from some of the learners and guests.

Since this event, other groups in the region have been asking me how our region might publish more learner writings

on the Internet, whether on NALD or through the setup of our own regional learner's site. I've contacted NALD about this and am waiting to hear what they suggest.

This activity turned out really well, and I would recommend it to other groups to try.

There was great feedback from all concerned.

Literacy Nanaimo...

Sunday, February 27 was a day for looking back and looking forward as friends, tutors, volunteers, staff, current and former members and guests mingled at **Literacy Nanaimo's 10th Anniversary Celebration**. About 200 people turned out for the celebration, which featured door prizes, silent auction, photograph display, speakers and refreshments.

The community group moved to a new location in November 1999, and now has all its programs and facilities housed under one roof.

Literacy Nanaimo is now located in a former hardware store at 19 Commercial

Street. "It's a great location in a historic building that is highly visible," says Executive Director Carolyn McWhinnie. The three floor facility includes offices and tutoring space upstairs, the used bookstore on the main floor, and the new computer recycling depot in the basement.

Carolyn says Literacy Nanaimo was fortunate to obtain the building from its owners, Home Hardware, when they moved to a new location out of the central core and could no longer keep the downtown store open, though they did not

Continued on next page...

ABE Transitions Project Update

The ABE Transitions Project is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced

Education Training and Technology. The Project's goal is to work towards a coordinated public ABE

system for British Columbia with a more integrated, learner-centred approach to ABE programming.

The ABE Transitions Project builds on the work done by a joint committee on ABE which in 1995 made several recommendations. One of these was to establish a common adult graduation credential for ABE students — this objective was implemented starting last September in colleges and school districts, and will be completely phased in by September 2000. The name of the new joint diploma is the British Columbia Adult Graduation Program (known informally as the "adult Dogwood").

There are three other objectives

- implementing the ABE Program Quality Framework (ABEPQF) and the ABE Accountability Framework
- improved articulation of courses —making credit for learning more portable across the two systems
- joint college/school district regional planning for ABE delivery

The ABEPQF lists 15 components of a quality ABE program with indicators to

Continued on page 13..

Literacy Nanaimo...(cont'd)

want to leave it empty. "They are local people and have always been very supportive of us," she says. She is thrilled with the new facilities, especially the "huge" new bookstore space. The bookstore, which has always been a big fundraiser for Literacy Nanaimo, is a busy and successful full time operation staffed entirely by volunteers and one part time manager.

The group also runs a computer recycling program, which restores and re-sells donated computers and parts. It also has been highly successful. "It's just like the used bookstore," says Carolyn, "when we started this program about six years ago, we were worried about not having

enough books to keep it going. Now we never have to worry about having enough. People donate all year round. It's the same with the computers. It's amazing."

Literacy Nanaimo has seized on another fundraising opportunity as the local presenter of the "Stephen Leacock Whirlwind Campaign to Cheer Up Canada" at Malaspina University College Theatre on May 12. (To find out more about the Whirlwind Campaign, see our story on page nine).

With the success of both these past and present ventures, Carolyn has this tip for other non-profits: "You have to be more entrepreneurial today."



Left to right: Building owners Laura and Jack Pagan speaking with Wayne Kingston at Literacy Nanaimo's 10th anniversary Celebration and Grand Opening.

News from B.C.

"Leacock for Literacy" — Show Raises \$\$

A stage show based on the life of Canadian writer and humourist Stephen Leacock that is touring across the country to raise money for literacy groups will make two stops in B.C. next month.

"Stephen Leacock's Whirlwind Campaign to Cheer Up Canada" is a Toronto-based production being offered as a fundraiser to literacy groups. The two-man show features Powell River-born actor Neil Ross as Stephen Leacock, and supporting actor /musician Aaron Duncan, from Leacock's home town of Orillia.

The show features Leacock "telling the story of his life in literature and his academic career in his own words." In it, "he comments on the changes in the modern

world, from mergers to metaphysics. Ross is joined on stage by Duncan, a multi-talented mime, sketch performer, saxophonist, pianist, and harmonica player, to present some of Leacock's most brilliant material in a style that merges modern sketch and standup comedy with Vaudeville."

The show will be performed at the Douglas College Performance Theatre, New Westminster on **May 11** and at Malaspina University College Theatre in Nanaimo on **May 12**.

Ross says, "Stephen Leacock's international reputation as a man of letters and as a humourist makes him an ideal advocate for Canadian literacy." The Whirlwind Campaign is

sponsored in part by book publishers McLelland and Stewart and VIA Rail.

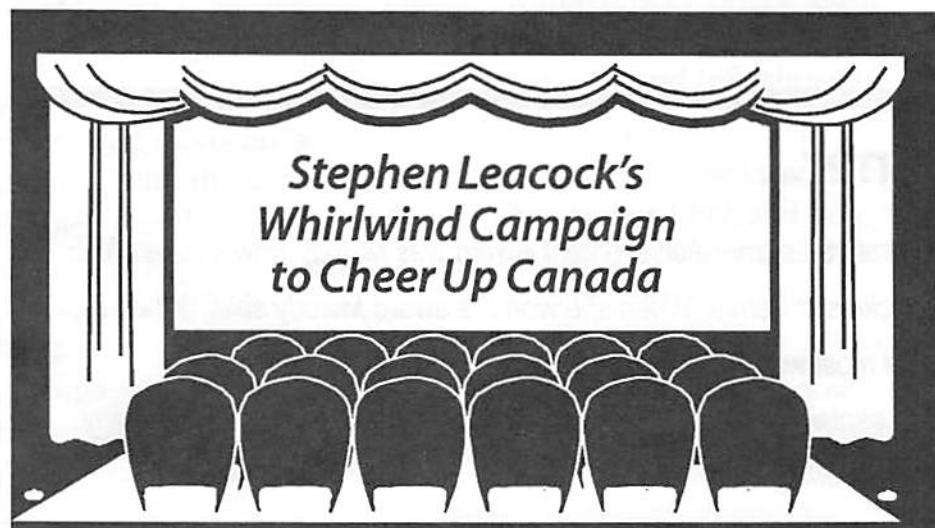
New Westminster

For tickets, call the College Bookstore or reserve by calling (604) 527-5409. Or contact: Joni Rose at (604) 527-5694. Proceeds from the New Westminster show will go the Douglas College I-CARE (Individual Community Adult Reading Education) volunteer tutor program.

Nanaimo

For tickets, contact Carolyn McWhinnie at Literacy Nanaimo. Phone: (250) 754-8988. All net proceeds will support Literacy Nanaimo.

Tickets are \$15.00.



The Co-operators' 2000 Provincial Learner Achievement Award

The search for a well-deserving individual is on again as The Co-operators, a national insurance company, proudly sponsors the 2000 Provincial Learner Achievement Award. This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in B.C.

The \$200 award will be presented at the Literacy BC Annual General Meeting in the fall. The winner also will be announced at the PGI golf tournament in July.

The criteria for **The Co-operators' Learner Achievement Award** are:

- have attended a literacy/ABE program for at least six months, and preferably one year
- have an excellent attendance record
- obtain a recommendation from a teacher or tutor
- have shown exceptional progress in your studies

The deadline for applications is May 26, 2000.

The winner will be chosen by a committee of adult learners.

Contact Literacy BC for application forms. Call 1-800-663-1293.



Last year's winner...

The 1999 winner of The Co-operators Learner Achievement Award was Melody Edwards, an ABE student at the College of the Rockies in Fernie. When she won the award Melody said, "When I finished my first novel, it was the most wonderful feeling. I can't even say it without feeling overwhelmed inside. It's hard to explain what it feels like after not being able to read for so many years. It's like a whole new world opening up to you."

National News

News From MCL



Wendy DesBrisay has been appointed the new Executive Director of the Movement for Canadian Literacy.

Ann Marie Downie, President of the MCL Board of Directors, writes:

...Wendy has been the Acting Executive Director since July 1999. Her appointment was confirmed by the Board of

Directors at its recent meeting.

Wendy is well known in the literacy community. She has been involved in literacy work since 1985, as a community literacy educator, administrator, researcher, writer, project manager and plain language consultant. Her earlier employment was in social work and community development.

MCL will soon celebrate its 25th anniversary as an

organization which speaks for literacy for every Canadian. Wendy will be a superb guide for MCL as it moves towards its 35th year. Wendy brings the mixture of knowledge, personal commitment and communication skills to help all of us involved in literacy have a strong voice on literacy matters.

I know you will join me and the Board of Directors in welcoming Wendy to this position.

Learners Advisory Network (LAN) News

Literacy BC is delighted to announce that **Wendy Koivisto**, the BC representative to MCL's Learner Advisory Network (LAN), has been elected as Vice-Chair of the Network.

Wendy lives in Courtenay and has been involved in learner-based activities in B.C. for a number of years. She was chair of the "Learners Talking to Learners" Regional Events Committee, and for three years was the learner representative on the federal/provincial cost-shared project review committee.

Congratulations, Wendy!
The Learners Advisory

Network (LAN) is a committee of MCL. The LAN is made up of one learner representative from each province and territory. It is the mandate of the LAN to strengthen the learners' voice in Canada. The work that the members of the LAN do is geared toward reaching that goal. The LAN is also contacted by other groups and organizations for advice such as focus testing information pamphlets for readability, and various issues related to health, employment, technology and justice. A very important part of the LAN work is advocacy on behalf of Canadian learners, including work on the annual Literacy

Action Day on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

*The latest issue of
LEARNERS IN ACTION is
included with this
newsletter as is
literacy.ca. Please share
these wonderful
publications with your
students and colleagues.
To find out more about
the LAN, visit the MCL
website: www.literacy.ca*

National News

Canada Post Literacy Awards

Attention: Literacy Tutors, Learners, Practitioners, Groups...

It's time once again to get your nominations in for the 8th annual Canada Post Literacy Awards. **The nomination period — underway since March 28 — continues until May 31, 2000.** The awards seek to recognize the

achievements of learners, organizations and business in their effort to overcome barriers to literacy.

The awards are open to individuals and organizations participating in, or affiliated

THE 2000 CANADA POST LITERACY AWARDS

with, a recognized literacy program. This year there will be up to 45 awards given out across Canada over four different categories.

Individual Literacy Achievement

Recognizes the achievements of English and French-speaking learners who have overcome barriers to literacy.

Educator

Honours educators, tutors or program initiators for dedication and commitment to literacy.

Community Leadership

Recognizes one literacy or labour organization, or a special community initiative, in each province and territory which has demonstrated long term achievement and excellence in literacy programming.

Business Leadership

Salutes a Canadian business for its leadership in literacy through workplace or special literacy programs. Only one Business Leadership award will be presented.

Copies of the application package are mailed with this newsletter.

Income Tax Help for Learners, Volunteers

For the past 28 years, Revenue Canada now the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA), has sponsored the Community Volunteer Income Tax program. The CCRA has asked for your help in conveying information about the program to tutors and learners.

Every year across Canada, volunteers participating in this program help people in their communities, including newcomers to Canada, low-wage earners, students and seniors, prepare their tax returns. In the past ten years, these volunteers have prepared more than 2,289,000 returns for people with straightforward tax situations, and have helped them understand and honour their

tax obligations, as well as receive the credits and benefits to which they are entitled.

Learners are encouraged to use this program. Literacy organizations and tutors can "lend a hand" and become involved. Training is available now and CCRA will offer ongoing assistance during the program.

To find out more about how you can get involved in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, contact

Gwen Antaya

**Pacific Regional Coordinator
Community Volunteer Income
Tax Program**

1-877-661-3388

(250) 363-8417 (Victoria)

**Collect calls are accepted from
anywhere in B.C.**

Disability Resource Centre Opens

The B.C. Coalition of People with Disabilities has opened a new service that provides consumer health information in plain language and alternative formats to people with disabilities.

The Wellness and Disability Initiative Resource Centre was launched last fall in Vancouver. The Resource Centre provides educational material to people with disabilities, their families and caregivers, as well as healthcare professionals and educators.

The program is set up to find, catalogue and create information, as well as provide

resources for professionals who are active in developing materials. Plain language and alternative formats are used to ensure that the information is user-friendly. Alternative formats include closed/open captioned videos, cassettes, large print, Braille, American Sign Language (ASL), and computer output in the form of voice, large print, or Braille. Plain language and alternative formats are ways of making sure people can understand and use information to help improve their lives. Plain language information is written in reader-friendly, everyday words with few medical or

scientific terms. When medical or scientific words are used, plain language writers explain what they mean.

The Coalition says many people with disabilities are at a high risk for health problems and may need help in reading an appointment slip, interpreting prescription information and understanding recommendations for self-care. "Given that a large percentage of the disabled population experiences difficulty reading and understanding basic health information, the access and availability of wellness material is a critical component to their lives. The Resource Centre seeks to break down these barriers and minimize the obstacles that prevent people with disabilities from learning and living with full understanding of vital information."

Service is available by telephone, fax and through a website.

For information about the Wellness and Disability Initiative, contact:
B.C. Coalition of People with Disabilities
#204 - 456 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3
Tel. 604-875-0188
Fax 604-875-9227
TTY 604-875-8835
Toll-free 1-877-232-7400 TDD
604-875-8835
e-mail wdi@bccpd.bc.ca.

ABE Transitions Project (cont'd)

describe each of those components. The ABEPQF was piloted in the fall of 1999 as a program review tool in the Camosun (Greater Victoria) and the East Kootenay regions, and involved the college and school districts in each region. As well, meetings of college and school district instructors and administrators were held in each of these two regions. The pilot regions found that the Framework provided a guide for developing program evaluation tools and for setting program goals and priorities. The regions validated the document as a framework

rather than as a specific evaluation tool. The ABE Accountability Framework will be used to guide government data collection in specific ABE surveys.

Joint Regional Planning and innovative grants to support that process are being implemented in the 15 college regions this spring.

For more information on the ABE Transitions Project, contact:
Audrey Thomas
Ministry of Advanced Education,
Training and Technology
Phone: (350) 387-6174
Email:
Audrey.Thomas@gems5.gov.bc.ca

Conference update...

Reminder: Registration is still open for these upcoming conferences....

Living and Learning in the 21st Century

Adult Basic Education
Association of BC Conference and AGM

April 26 - 29

University College of the
Cariboo, Kamloops

Contact: Nita Jacob, Coquitlam
Continuing Education

Phone: (604) 936-4261

Email: njacob@sd43.bc.ca

Website: ABEABC Home Page
through NALD at www.nald.ca

Kaleidoscope 2000 - Innovative Good Practice in Post-Secondary Education Centre for Curriculum, Transfer & Technology (C2T2)

April 30, May 1-2, Vancouver

Contact: Gillies Malnarich

Phone (604) 681-4554

Email: gmalnarich@ctt.bc.ca

Website: www.ctt.bc.ca/events

Celebrating Excellence: the 2000 BC Library Conference

B.C. Library Association

May 25-27, Kelowna

Contact: Michael Burris, BCLA

Phone: (604) 683-5354

Email: office@bcla.bc.ca

College Institute Educator's Association of BC (CEIA) Annual Conference

May 24-27, Whistler

Phone (604) 873-8988

Email: cieabc1@ibm.net

Website: [ciea.bc.ca/
schdmon.htm](http://ciea.bc.ca/schdmon.htm)

What Works! A Literacy Symposium

Kalamalka Campus, Okanagan
University College, Vernon

Sponsored by OUC and
Vernon School District

June 2-3

Phone: (350) 545-7291

Email:

caaberna@ver1.ouc.bc.ca

Website: [www.ouc.bc.ca/
literacy](http://www.ouc.bc.ca/literacy)

What Works! will provide a chance for those involved in literacy education to meet with their peers and discuss techniques, research, approaches and adaptive technology for literacy.

Audrey Thomas, Provincial Literacy Coordinator, Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology is one of 16 presenters. Featured speakers are CBC Radio broadcaster and journalist Rex Murphy, and Paul Gallagher, educator, public policy consultant and President of Literacy BC.

AERC 2000 — International Adult Education Research Conference

June 2 - 4

(with Pre-Conferences May 31
and June 1)

University of British
Columbia

An international conference involving five research organizations from Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Australia and Europe. Audrey Thomas from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, and Sandy Middleton from Literacy BC, Marina Niks from UBC, and Tom Nesbitt from SFU are participants in the roundtable sessions called, "From the Bottom Up: Developing a Literacy Practitioner Research Network in B.C."

A number of pre-conference sessions are free. These include, Enhancing Adult Literacy Research on June 1.

This session offers an opportunity to strengthen research enterprise and to create bridges among the members of different adult education associations and to initiate a sharing of research interests and projects.

For complete conference and registration information, visit the conference website.

Continued next page..

Conference update...(cont'd)

Contact: Rowena Bacchus,
AERC Conference Secretary
Department of Educational
Studies, UBC
Phone: 822-5374
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roweena.bacchus@ubc.ca
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www.edst.educ.ubc.ca/aerc/

**Canadian Public Health
Association First Canadian
Conference on Literacy and
Health: Charting the Course for
Literacy and Health in the New
Millennium**

May 28-30 in Ottawa
Email: conferences@cpha.ca
Website: www.nlhp.cpha.ca

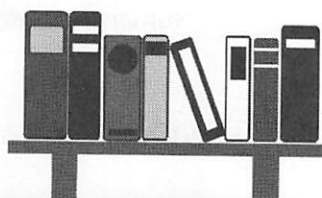
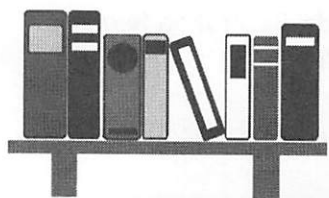
Literacy Research Directory

The Directory of Canadian Adult Literacy Research in English has been launched by the Centre for Research on Literacy at the University of Alberta.

The directory is funded by the National Literacy Secretariat and is hosted by NALD, the National Adult Literacy Database. It provides information on research conducted in Canada from 1994, as well as research currently underway. To date, it contains information on 140 completed pieces of research and 20 current research projects. Each research entry contains bibliographic information and a 500 word annotation. In some instances, a full-text version can also be downloaded.

The directory will benefit academics and practitioners by providing access to research published by universities, colleges, governments, non-profit and community based organizations and the private sector.

To access the directory, go to <http://www.nald.ca/crd/start.htm>. You can search for the research by author, publication year, title, subject, keyword, context or location.



Frontier College Receives Centenary \$\$

The federal government has announced a major contribution to Frontier College in honour of its 100 years of service to Canada.

The contribution, announced in a ceremony at the Frontier College national office in Toronto on March 27 by the Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources Development Canada, includes:

- \$12 million to the Frontier College Learning Foundation (an endowment fund)
- \$3 million to enable Frontier College to organize teams of volunteer literacy tutors at every university in Canada

This contribution is being made by the Government of Canada through the Human Resources Development Department. The funds are not being provided from the budget of the National Literacy Secretariat.

To find out more about Frontier College activities in B.C., contact Erin Soros, Provincial Coordinator, at (604) 255-3527. E-Mail: esoros@frontiercollege.ca



Donor Appreciation

Thank you to the following individuals who have donated \$100 or more to Literacy BC:

Breen Egan
Pacific Papers Inc.
The Stewart Fund
Laurie DeMille

Human Resources Development Canada, B.C./Yukon Region
Peter Podovnikoff
John Grieve

And to those who have contributed up to \$100:

Melanie Austin
Erna Barwich
Joan Doree
Joan Rhodes
The Hydrecs Fund

Employees of Surrey Metro Savings Credit Union

A very special thank you to the following people who sent donations in memory of Cecil Wilson:

Lloyd and Jane Grinder
R.Lorraine Sanderson
Margaret J. Sanderson

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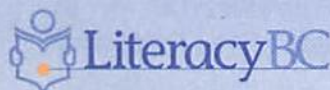


REMINDER...We have Certificates for you

Literacy BC has Appreciation Certificates available for community groups to present to volunteer tutors and others who contribute their valuable services to literacy. We also have a supply of literacy pins for sale.



To order, call us at 1-800-663-1293.



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Internet: www.nald.ca/lbc.htm

We are supported by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; Human Resources Development Canada—The National Literacy Secretariat; memberships and donations. Donations to Literacy BC are tax deductible.
Federal Charities Number: 12846-0334-RR0001

Lookwhat's New

Resources

Resources

on our shelves...

Reversing the Real Brain Drain: Early Years Study Final Report.

Margaret McCain and J. Fraser Mustard. April 1999. Results of a study commissioned by the Ontario government to provide options and recommendations for the best ways of preparing Ontario's children — including those at risk or with special needs — for scholastic, career and social success. The study lays out the key points on brain development and early child development, and the effects of the early years on learning, behavior and health throughout life. It includes 11 recommendations for collaborative service models for early learning, including local and provincial initiatives based on best practices. Borrow from Literacy BC or contact us for ordering information.

Roots of Empathy (CD ROM).

Mary Gordon, Toronto District School Board, 1999. A Windows and Macintosh compatible CD-ROM that gives a birds-eye view of the Roots of Empathy program run in inner city schools in Toronto. Roots of Empathy is a parenting program for elementary school students designed to increase empathy in children and develop an appreciation and knowledge of

human development. Come into a classroom by video, hear Mary Gordon, founder of the program, discuss the vision behind it and tell stories about the children. Borrow from Literacy BC or order from:

Parenting Programs Office
155 College Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P6
Phone: (416) 393-9618

Frontier College Letters: One Hundred Years of Teaching, Learning & Nation Building.

Frontier College Press, 1999. Letters and documents written by Frontier College members from 1899 to the present. The letters (and photographs) show how these literacy volunteers worked to achieve their mission of taking education to the people, wherever the people happened to be — from logging camps to inner city communities, and from mining towns to prisons factories and farms.

Literacy awareness in Rural Canada: Final Report.

Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC) 1999. This report summarizes the CAC partnership with the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada to raise awareness of literacy among Canadians in rural communities during 1998-99.

Between them, the two groups held 1500 workshops across Canada, and created a literacy awareness kit, including media materials, which are reproduced in this report.

Working with Low-Literacy Seniors: Practical Strategies for Health Providers.

National Literacy and Health

Too Scared to Learn. Women, Violence and Learning.

Jenny Horsman, Toronto, Dec. 1999. "This explosive new Canadian study re-examines learning with a lens focused on what we now know about the prevalence and impacts of violence in women's lives. *Too Scared to Learn* applies current research on violence and trauma to learning in the field of adult women's literacy. Based on original research with literacy learners and instructors as well as practising therapists across Canada, *Too Scared to Learn* brings together a wealth of previously unconnected knowledge to spark new approaches to learning and teaching." Ordering information is available from Literacy BC.

Look what's New

Resources

Resources

on our shelves...

Program, Canadian Public Health Association, 1998. An easy-to-read guide designed to highlight the special needs of low-literacy seniors within the health system, and help health providers serve the needs of this group of clients more sensitively and effectively.

Easy does it! : plain language and clear verbal communication training manual.

National Literacy and Health Program and Canadian Public Health Association

The Maturing of a Profession: an Overview of Workplace Education.

Margarit Roger, National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada, January 1999. This report profiles some of the professional development opportunities made available to workplace education practitioners across Canada at the local, regional or national level in recent years. The report was prepared for the NLS, through surveys and phone calls with over 35 programs, to catalogue some of the training models and programs specifically designed for workplace education practitioners.

The Education and Training Planner.

Alberta Department of Advanced Education and Career

Development, November 1998. A guide and workbook designed for students who have already done some career planning and have a career goal in mind. The planner helps students with research, budgets and financial planning and where to get information and help.

Spread the Word: How to Implement a Community Literacy Festival .

Georgian Literacy, Collingwood, Ontario, 1999. A handbook that documents a day-long celebration of literacy, featuring readings by Canadian authors, storytelling, entertainment, exhibits, and children's activities, held two years ago in this Ontario community. The primary focus of the festival was to show literacy in a non-traditional setting, and to provide a fun, family-oriented festival to inspire an awareness about the importance of literacy at home, in the community and at work.

Directory of plain language health information .

Canadian Public Health Association

We have copies to give away of the following resources:

Creative Arts Therapy Program: 1998-1999 Report and Evaluation.

The Victoria READ Society. A report on a program designed to explore life issues through art in a group setting for Victoria READ Society literacy students.

A Woman's Work, Volume One and Two

Vicky Hallett and Jan Weiten, Basic Education Department, Vancouver Community College, 1999. Two booklets written for adult literacy students about Canadian women who worked during the early part of the 20th century. Illustrated with black and white photos.

Reaching the Peak: a tutor's handbook for using the community newspaper.

Learners Talking to Learners 1999.

The working lives of adult literacy practitioners.

A research report by Wanda D. Arneson.

All of the resources on these pages are available on loan from Literacy BC. In some cases, we can also tell you how to order directly from the publisher — call 1-800-663-1293 for more information. As well, more new titles are being catalogued regularly — First Class electronic network users can check under "Resources — What's New" in the Literacy BC conference. We encourage everyone to call us to find out more about our Resource Library.